



LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS RECONNAISSANCE REPORT



A Report by the
Office of Environmental Measurement and Evaluation
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LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS RECONNAISSANCE REPORT

Executive Summary:

The Lawrence, Massachusetts Reconnaissance was conducted by EPA-New England's Office of Environmental Measurement and Evaluation (OEME) from May to mid-September 2000. The goals of the reconnaissance project were: (1) to locate point sources along the Merrimack River in the study area; (2) to identify compliance, deterrence, and assistance opportunities in the study area; (3) and to focus EPA New England's limited resources to appropriate areas to maximize ecosystem protection.

Any information collected during the reconnaissance which is enforcement sensitive or used for determining facilities for inspection is not include in this report.

Numerous concerns were voiced during meetings with local community and environmental groups. There were a wide range of concerns, from the high rate of lead poisoning in Lawrence children, to the cumulative effects of air emissions within the Merrimack Valley, to specific concerns with facilities. Attachment A lists the community concerns within Lawrence and Attachment B lists those community concerns that are outside of the study area.

From the meetings and discussions with local officials, and community and environmental groups, three opportunities for outreach and technical assistance became apparent for EPA. These opportunities focused on: analytical and educational assistance to help reduce lead exposure; developing a mechanism for EPA and the State to communicate with the community concerning follow-up activities to the reconnaissance; and Incident Command Training for the fire department. Detailed information for each of these outreach opportunities appears in Attachment C.

Attachments D, E and F list facilities in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS), AIRS Facilities Subsystem (AFS), and Permit Compliance System (PCS), respectively, which are closed. The closure of these facilities was verified during the drive-bys and in discussions with local officials, and community and environmental groups.

The survey of the Merrimack River was conducted on August 8, August 10, and August 17, 2000. The stretch of the Merrimack River that was surveyed was from the Lawrence-Methuen-Andover line to the Lawrence-Methuen-North Andover Line, including the North Canal. The Merrimack River was surveyed by boat and the North Canal was surveyed by foot. All point sources were located using a Global Positioning System (GPS) and mapped. Point sources above the water surface were photographed. Attachment G contains descriptions and photographs of point source discharges found during that time. This attachment also includes maps of the point sources.

For more information concerning any of the items in this report, please contact

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ATTACHMENT A

Community Concerns

North Canal

There are concerns with the integrity of the canal dikes and dam. Also, trash and debris accumulate at the canal dam. The community believes that this debris is not properly removed and is simply allowed to wash over the dam into the Spickett River, which flows into the Merrimack River. There are also concerns with illegal discharges and possibly contaminated sediments in the canal.

Air Pollution in the Merrimack Valley

There is an overall concern with the cumulative effects of air emissions from mobile sources, incinerators and other industrial activity within the Merrimack Valley area. The main focus of this concern deals with emissions from trash-to-energy incinerators, especially dioxin and heavy metals emission rates.

Stericycle Medical Incinerator (formerly BFI)

0 Farley Street

The facility is the focus of many community and environmental groups. There are many concerns with this facility including: its close proximity to a predominately residential area; air emissions (especially dioxin and mercury); and contaminated wastewater (mercury). The community also questions the facility's internal operations. The community feels that there is not a strong State or Federal presence at the facility and that no mechanism exists for communication between the company and the community.

City of Lawrence Recycling Program

When talking with community and environmental groups, it became apparent that many residents find the city's current recycling program confusing. Residents would prefer weekly collection of recyclables, more frequent household hazardous waste collection days, and more information on the recycling program. They believe the infrequent collection of recyclables and household hazardous waste results in less participation in the recycling program. It is easier for residents to throw these items away, then store them in their homes.

Whittemore Company

30 Glenn Street

Area residents have complaints concerning dust emissions from this perlite manufacturer.

American Recycling of Massachusetts

207 Marston Street

This facility, formerly known as John C. Tombarello and Sons, is a large scrap metal facility. Area residents have complained about air emissions and noise from this facility.

Lead Poisoning

According to the Lawrence Board of Health, the lead poisoning rate for city residents is five times higher than the state and national averages. Community groups are concerned with lead poisoning, lead paint and lead contaminated soil.

Ogden-Martin Incinerator (Refuse Fuels Inc.)

85 Manchester Street

This facility is closed and is currently being demolished. Residents have concerns with dust and fugitive emissions from demolition. They are unaware if any engineering or management practices are in place to reduce dust or if the facility was properly prepared for demolition. The affected neighborhood would like more outreach from Ogden-Martin and to establish a means of communication with the company.

Paper Mills

There are concerns with possible dioxin emissions from paper mills located in Lawrence, including Newark Atlantic Paperboard and Merrimac Paper.

Hazardous and Biological Waste Routes

The community is concerned with the amount of hazardous and biological waste that is transported through the city to transfer, storage and disposal facilities (TSDFs) located in Lawrence.

Safety-Kleen

300 Canal Street

The company recently filed for Chapter 11 protection. Residents are concerned that this could effect operations at the Lawrence facility. There are also concerns regarding what will happen if the facility were to close.

Auto Body Shops and Auto Salvage Yards

There are concerns with improper waste and fluid disposal methods at these types of facilities.

Vacant Buildings and Lots

There are concerns with the integrity of and possible hazardous material storage in vacant commercial and industrial buildings. Many of these vacant properties do not have fire suppression systems.

There is also illegal dumping of materials, including asbestos and petroleum products, occurring on vacant lots.

Central Rail Yard

There are concerns with vandalism and long-term parking of rail cars containing hazardous chemicals in the rail yard located in the center of the city.

Municipal Water Supply System

There is concern with the storage capacity of the municipal water supply system. With the new storage tank coming on-line, the storage capacity of the system will be reduced from 44 million to 10 million gallons.

ATTACHMENT B
Concerns Outside of the Study Area

Lucent Technologies
North Andover, Massachusetts

Community and environmental groups expressed concern over the use and emission rate of mercury from this facility.

Proposed Nickel Hill Power Plant
Dracut, Massachusetts

There is concern about how air emissions from this proposed gas-fired facility will increase the cumulative effects of air emissions from other stationary and mobile sources within the Merrimack Valley area.

Vernon Plastics
Haverhill, Massachusetts

Area residents have concerns with odor and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions from the facility.

Ogden-Martin Ash Landfill
Haverhill, Massachusetts

There are concerns with leachate and fugitive emissions from this ash landfill, which is adjacent to the Merrimack River. The community is concerned about the integrity of the liner and possible lack of engineering controls, such as daily cover and berms. The company is proposing to expand the landfill.

Proposed Greater Lawrence Sanitary District Sludge-to-Fertilizer Plant
North Andover, Massachusetts

This proposed facility is also the focus of many community and environmental groups. There are concerns with the potential air emissions from this facility and its cumulative effects on air pollution in the Merrimack Valley area.

ATTACHMENT C

Community Outreach Opportunities

Lead Outreach

According to the Lawrence Board of Health, the lead poisoning rate for city residents is five times higher than the state and national averages. City officials, and community and environmental groups are concerned with the effects of lead poisoning, especially in children. There are limited resources available to the community to reduce exposure to lead from lead paint and lead contaminated soil.

There are multiple opportunities for EPA to provide analytical and educational assistance to the community. These opportunities may help EPA's external partners to better target their limited resources to those affected residential areas.

Lawrence Reconnaissance Follow-up

City officials, and community and environmental groups want State and Federal Agencies to be more responsive to the needs of their community. They feel as though the structure of these agencies is such that it is difficult to find the right contact person and even more difficult to obtain a response. Therefore, members of the community are unable to report an environment concern or determine if an agency has conducted follow-up on a concern.

There should be a mechanism for EPA and the State to communicate with community about follow-up activities, including: inspections completed in the area; educational material; as well as to advertise any outreach programs. Information for EPA and State program contacts should also be easily accessible to the community.

Emergency Response Training for the Fire Department

The fire department would like to establish better communication with State and Federal Agencies, such as the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP), EPA and the Coast Guard. The department has requested information regarding the emergency response hierarchy.

It is suggested that the EPA provide a training session for the fire department on Incident Command, including appropriate State and Federal contacts. This would also allow State and Federal Agencies to forge stronger working relationships with the department.

ATTACHMENT D
Closed Facilities in RCRIS

Alpha Industries Inc.
90 Glenn Street
MAD000649582

Barrier Coatings Corporation
55 South Canal Street
MAD057810731

Bull Worldwide Information Systems Inc.
250 Merrimack Street
MAD062161260

Carted Industries Inc.
15 Union Street
MAD980733570

Carters Auto Body Inc.
416 Broadway
MAD985267707
- renamed, now V&P Auto Body

Dynamic Chromium Industries Inc.
75 Baystate Road
MAR000006098

Dynamic Chromium Industries Inc.
350 Merrimack Street
MAD000006239

EJ Systems Inc.
601 South Union Street
MAD980913578

Friction Materials Inc.
17 Shepard Street
MAD981896657

Germanium Power Devices Inc.
6 Lake Street
MAD985278746

Hi-Tech Finishers Inc.

566 Broadway
MAD981888332

ITT Semiconductors
470 Broadway
MAD088976932

JMD Plating Company Inc.
75 Holly Street
MAD087144176
- now Hilton Chrome Corp.

National Northeast Corp.
65 Manchester Street
MAD056001688

Pellerin Auto Body
114 Marston Street
MAD981208275
- now Specialty Auto Body Inc.

United Uniform
398 Park Street
MAD030817381

Wilson Andrew
15 Melrose Street
MAD001003466
- now Multi-Grain Bakeries

ATTACHMENT E
Closed Facilities in AFS

National Northeast Corporation
65 Manchester Street

Yankee Refining Corporation
8 Blakelin Street

New England Classic Chrome
1 Mill Street

Ogden-Martin LTCF (Refuse Fuels Inc.)
85 Manchester Street
- in process of demolishing facility

Lawrence Textiles
516 Broadway
- moved, now at 15 Union Street

Finelle Acquisitions Corporation (Finelle Cosmetics)
137 Marston Street

ATTACHMENT F
Closed Facilities in PCS

ITT Semiconductors

470 Broadway

Refuse Fuels Inc. (Ogden-Martin Systems of Haverhill Inc.)

85 Manchester Street

- in process of demolishing facility